

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
TRAFFIC COMMISSION AND TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Traffic Commission convened in a joint session with Torrance City Council at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Traffic Commission

Present: Commissioners Furey, Herring, Sargent, Siani, Walter, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: Commissioner Tsao.

City Council

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: Councilmember Numark.

Also present: City Manager Jackson, City Clerk Herbers, Community Services Director Jones, Assistant City Manager Giordano, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan, City Attorney Fellows, Public Works Director Beste, Engineering Manager Semaan, and Project Manager Sedadi.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Councilmember Rhilinger moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Walter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes were not available.

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decision to City Council.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS None.

7. SUMMARY AND STATUS OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN BY THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS

Engineering Manager Semaan introduced the item and noted that the purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on Traffic Commission Work Plan priorities approved by City Council almost two years ago. He distributed a summary of the six

priorities that the Commission has worked on and pointed out that additional information was included in attachments.

Commissioner Sargent presented the first priority – Develop a Tracking Process for Traffic Commission Concerns. He stated that the Commission recommended the format outlined in the attachment that contains Traffic Commission and resident concerns brought up under Oral Communications dating back to February 2009. He noted that the tracking system is working very well.

Commissioner Walter provided information regarding the second priority – Develop a Criteria/List of Intersections for Protected Permissive Signal Operation. He stated that the Commission finalized and prioritized the criteria for intersections that may utilize protective permissive left-turn (PPLT) phasing, calling attention to the spreadsheet of 166 signalized intersections included in attachments.

Chairperson Rudolph noted that the Commission hopes that PPLT phasing is a means to relieve traffic congestion and improve traffic flow in parts of the City.

Commissioner Sargent stated that Mark Miller, City Traffic Engineer for City of Fullerton, presented options for PPLT signal operations. He expressed hope that the three intersections being considered along Sepulveda Boulevard would relieve back-up traffic.

Commissioner Siani pointed out that the Commission modified and prioritized a list of intersections for further consideration of PPLT based on criteria such as critical speed and number of lanes.

In response to Mayor Scotto's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that a RFP for the design of PPLT using the Flashing Yellow Arrow has gone out for three intersections along Sepulveda Boulevard and includes feasibility analysis and public education, adding that cost estimates could vary based on preliminary analysis.

Mayor Scotto offered his observation that southbound Anza Avenue to eastbound Lomita Boulevard has congestion all day long.

Responding to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan stated that Commission identified the Flashing Yellow Arrow Permissive Only Left-Turn indication as the preferred implementation method. He explained that one of the variables that they liked was the ability to make an intersection protective-permissive with the flashing yellow arrow during some times of the day or fully protected during peak hours.

Chairperson Rudolph presented the Commission's third priority – Pedestrian Crosswalk Enhancement Audio/Tactile/In-Pavement Flashing Markers. He stated that the Commission developed a list of measures that could be considered for enhanced crosswalk installation based on need for a specific enhancement and existing conditions.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that some of the audio and tactile enhancements have already been applied in the City and that the "toolbox" would be considered when there are future requests.

Mayor Scotto questioned the advisability of using in-pavement flashing markers in lieu of crossing guards at schools, and Engineering Manager Semaan explained that they have significant operational and maintenance problems but that requests would go through the Commission/City Council process for consideration.

In response to Councilmember Rhilinger's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that need for crosswalk enhancements is based on input from residents, the Commission, and City Council.

Mayor Scotto stated that some homeowners associations feel they need to be more proactive in making decisions about crosswalk enhancements.

Commissioner Walter discussed the fourth priority – Develop Policies for Installation, Location, and Maintenance of Street Name Signs. He stated that the Commission developed a list of typical installation criteria to be used as a guideline for new street name signs or when replacing damaged signs.

Chairperson Rudolph introduced the fifth priority – Encouraging Other Modes of Transportation, such as Pedestrian and Shuttle Buses to and from the Mall and Other Major Commercial Centers and Downtown Torrance.

Engineering Manager Semaan discussed presentations by Administration Manager Mills from Transit Department and Planning Manager Lodan from Community Development Department.

Mayor Scotto stated that in the future the new Transit Center on Crenshaw Boulevard would provide bus, and hopefully rail service, to LAX with a "park and ride."

City Manager Jackson recalled interest in the 1970's and 1980's about extending the Green Line south on Hawthorne Boulevard and the possibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge across Hawthorne Boulevard.

Commissioner Siani discussed the possibility of a lunchtime shuttle service from employment centers to Downtown Torrance.

Mayor Scotto talked about proposals to provide shuttle service from the Visitor's Bureau to hotels as well as from Honda/Toyota to Downtown Torrance.

Councilmember Brewer initiated a discussion regarding the proposal for the City to participate in the South Bay Regional Car Sharing Program, Car2Go.

Mayor Scotto and Councilmember Rhilinger described the proposed nine-city, 300-car rent-by-the-minute "Smart" car pilot program in the South Bay that would allow members to rent cars distributed throughout the area for as long or as little as they want. They explained that the program pays cities a fee annually for lost revenue from parking meters and that the program, recently approved in the City of Hermosa Beach, would encourage residents to eliminate their second cars.

Chairperson Rudolph introduced the sixth priority – Sepulveda Corridor Traffic Analysis – with the goal to improve traffic flow in both directions on Sepulveda Boulevard.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the Commission looked at all signalized intersections along Sepulveda Boulevard and focused attention on intersections at Anza Avenue, Western Avenue, and Hawthorne Boulevard. He stated that improvements have already been implemented at the intersections at Hawthorne Boulevard and Anza Avenue as part of the Sepulveda Street Rehabilitation Project. He explained that there is support from the three jurisdictions that control the intersection at Western Avenue to apply for Measure R funding to make improvements. He stated that they are in the process of packaging a \$6 million project application that will go to Metro this week, noting that they will know this summer if they will be funded, with improvements being implemented in five years. He stated that the Commission also recommended bringing forward three intersections along Sepulveda Boulevard, at Hickory, Arlington, and Cabrillo Avenues, as part of the PPLT phasing analysis.

Mayor Scotto discussed the possibility of reversing traffic flow lanes on Sepulveda Boulevard someday in the future.

Chairperson Rudolph shared information about the Commission's visit to Caltrans' Traffic Management Center and raised the possibility of advertising areas in the City that are synchronized.

Mayor Scotto pointed out that there are 300 calls for emergency services every week and that Police and Fire vehicles preempt signal operations.

Commissioner Sargent asked for ideas for future Work Plan priorities from City Council and Mayor Scotto suggested looking at improvements for other corridors such as Torrance Boulevard, Carson Street, and Anza Avenue.

City Attorney Fellows recommended that staff bring an agenda item to a future City Council meeting and Mayor Scotto suggested planning another joint meeting with the Traffic Commission in four to six months to discuss potential Work Plan items.

Councilmember Furey stated that the only way to improve traffic congestion is to reduce the number of cars and suggested taking a broader, long-term approach.

Commissioner Walter suggested providing a bus shuttle service from Torrance Courthouse to Del Amo Mall.

Commissioner Siani stated that she is anxious to work on any priorities that Councilmembers develop.

Chairperson Rudolph indicated that he would like to start working on priorities sooner than later and asked City Council to keep the Commission more involved about issues going on in the city.

Councilmembers commended Traffic Commissioners and staff members for their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Scotto emphasized that there is a lot more work to be done and that virtually every street in Torrance could be looked at to improve traffic flow. He stated that sometimes the best solution might be to take away things, such as too many stop

signs, and to make adjustments to the configuration of left turn lanes. He recommended that the Commission go on more field trips to places that include California Highway Patrol and Police Department.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

Guests Jared Bailey and Christie Felix, Gardena, asked questions about the Car2Go program and Mayor Scotto and Councilmember Rhilinger provided information about the pre-approval process, tracking system, and how to find an available car if one does not have a Smart phone.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., City Council recessed to City Council Chambers for the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

At 6:46 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to February 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex meeting room.

Approved as Submitted March 4, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--